



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/509,725

10/01/2004

John Zimmerman

PHUS020100

4382

24737 7590 11/01/2007

PHILIPS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & STANDARDS

P.O. BOX 3001

BRIARCLIFF MANOR, NY 10510

EXAMINER

BAIG, SAHAR A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2623

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

11/01/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/509,725

Applicant(s)

ZIMMERMAN ET AL.

Examiner

Sahar A. Baig

Art Unit

2623

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 October 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 01 October 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 10/01/2004
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

1. Claim 1-4, 6-7, and 17- 21, rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Herz et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,754,938.

Regarding Claim 1, 18, 19 and 21, Herz discloses a method for providing personalized news to a consumer comprising: receiving news from a plurality of external sources; identifying a subset of the received news based on a consumer profile for the consumer [**Col. 1 line 17-18**; *customized electronic identification of desirable objects, such as news articles*]; storing the identified news; prioritizing the stored news; providing at least a portion of the prioritized news to the consumer [**Col. 1 lines 26-33**; *The system then evaluates the target profiles against the users' target profile interest summaries to generate a user-customized rank ordered listing of target objects most likely to be of interest to each user so that the user can select from among these potentially relevant target objects, which were automatically selected by this system from the plethora of target objects that are profiled on the electronic media*].

Regarding Claim 2, Herz discloses that incoming media can be from any source or any format [**Col. 6 lines 8-11**; Examples of target objects can include, but are

not limited to: a newspaper story of potential interest, a movie to watch, an item to buy, e-mail to receive, or another person to correspond with].

Regarding Claim 3, Herz discloses a method that provides at least a portion of the prioritized news to the consumer comprising providing at least a portion of the prioritized news in a format specified by the consumer **[Col. 32 lines 34 –40;** *second function of the proxy server is to record user-specific information associated with user U. This user-specific information includes a user profile and target profile interest summary for user U, as well as a list of access control instructions specified by user U]*.

Regarding Claim 4, Herz discloses a method that prioritizes the stored news based on data stored in an information content matching table **[Col. 5 lines 13 – 16;** *The system then evaluates the target profiles against the users' target profile interest summaries to generate a user-customized rank ordered listing of target objects most likely to be of interest to each user so that the user can select from among these potentially relevant target objects]*.

Regarding Claim 6 and 20, Herz discloses a method **Figure 10** comprising: receiving an activation request from the consumer **1101**; providing a summary screen to the consumer based on the activation request **1104**; receiving a

Art Unit: 2623

request for a specified content zone from the consumer **1105**; and providing a content zone screen to the consumer based on the specified content zone **1106**.

Regarding Claim 7, Herz discloses the content zone screen comprising one of a weather content zone screen, a traffic content zone screen, a financial content zone screen, a sports content zone screen, a local events content zone screen and a headlines content zone screen [**Col. 52 lines 4-6**; *In the case of an electronic newspaper, the files can contain textual representations of stock prices, weather forecasts, editorials, etc*].

Regarding Claim 17, Herz discloses a method **Figure 10** comprising: providing a clustered story button **1104** on the content zone screen, the clustered story button operable to identify a story augmented with additional information; receiving a selection of the clustered story button from the consumer **1105**; and providing the additional information to the consumer based on the selection of the clustered story button **1106**.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

Art Unit: 2623

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claim 5, 11-12 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Herz et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,754,938.

Regarding Claim 5, Herz discloses that the data stored in the information content matching table comprising various assortments of data **[Col. 16 lines 1-14; For example, if the target objects are consumer goods, and the weight of the "color" attribute is comparatively very small, then price is not a consideration in determining similarity: a user who likes a brown massage cushion is predicted to show equal interest in the same cushion manufactured in blue, and vice-versa. On the other hand, if the weight of the "color" attribute is comparatively very high, then users are predicted to show interest primarily in products whose colors they have liked in the past: a brown massage cushion and a blue massage cushion are not at all the same kind of target object]**. Although Herz does not clearly disclose of broadcaster importance data, it is obvious that every broadcasted piece of information is important to the broadcaster. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to include such a feature in the system.

Regarding Claim 11 and 12, although Herz does not clearly describe receiving a request for a zone summary screen from the consumer; and providing the zone summary screen to the consumer. **[Col. 58 lines 23-31; If no titles are available,**

Art Unit: 2623

then the first sentence(s) of each article can be used]. It is obvious that the list can be displayed with a just title or a summary (sentence) version. As for the content zone screen comprising an expanded zone and a collapsed content zone section, in Col. Line Herz discloses **[Col. 71 lines 25-32; displaying a labeled menu of subclusters, from which the user may select subclusters for the client to retrieve next]**.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claim 8-10 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Herz et al.

U.S. Patent No. 5,754,938 in view of Ludolph (U.S. Patent No. 5,874,958).

Regarding Claim 8, Herz discloses all of the limitations of the claimed invention except for providing a visual indicator to notify the consumer of which content zone is currently active. In an analogous art, Ludolph discloses that in **Figure 7** a box is formed around a highlighted or selected box in the displayed window. *[An edge selected by the user is highlighted in section 704 by, for example, forming box 740 around the selected edge (e.g., edge 204)]* Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Herz

and Ludolph to achieve a method of displaying a highlighted field on a display screen.

Regarding Claim 9 refer to **Figure 2 –7B**. Various combinations of background pattern, texture, and animation are obviously possible to accomplish.

Regarding Claim 10, Ludolph disclose visual elements of the content zone screen configurable by the consumer **[Col. 3 lines 26-27; A configuration user interface (UI) of a selector module is used to configure a sliding panel]**.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claim 13-16 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Herz et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,754,938 in view of Windows Media Player [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Windows_Media_Player].

In regards to claims 13-16, Herz fails to clearly describe the limitation of receiving a selection and then automatically playing it. It also fails to mention of a play all

selection along with playing a selection based on priority. **Microsoft's Windows Media Player** easily meets all of the claimed features. A selection of media files is automatically played on a priority ranked order in the play list. The play all command plays all the media files in the play list. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of the two disclosed prior arts to obtain a system that plays a selection in a priority ranked order automatically.

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. It includes Cobbley et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,614,940) and Augenbraun et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,617,565).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sahar A. Baig whose telephone number is 571-270-3005. The examiner can normally be reached on 4/5/9.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chris Kelley can be reached on 571-272-7331. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2623

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

SB



CHRIS KELLEY
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600